

KCC 16,733.2
KCC 4809.4

Remarks

Claims 6 and 11-13 are amended. Claims 1-17 will be pending upon entry of the amendment.

Response to Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C §112

Claims 6 and 11-13 are amended herein to provide antecedent basis for the terms "trailing end" and "leading end". Accordingly, claims 1-17 as now presented are submitted to satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C §112.

Response to Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 1

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-17 as being obvious in view of WO 99/59907 (O'Connor) in combination with WO 02/102665 (Lam et al.) is respectfully requested.

The present application is a divisional application claiming priority from its parent U.S. Application No. 10/039,238 filed December 31, 2001. Lam et al. is a published PCT application filed June 20, 2002 and claiming priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/299,157 filed June 20, 2001. Lam et al. therefore qualifies as prior art only under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and has an effective filing date of June 20, 2001.

The enclosed Declaration by the inventors under 37 CFR §1.131 establishes that they conceived of the subject matter of claims 1-17 prior to June 20, 2001, the effective filing date of Lam et al., and diligently reduced the invention to practice upon filing of the '238 application on December 21, 2001. Accordingly, Lam et al. is not prior art to the present application.

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For the above reasons, claims 1-17 are submitted to be patentable over the cited references.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and allowance of claims 1-17 is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency in connection with this Amendment A to Deposit Account Number 19-1345 in the name of Senniger Powers.

Respectfully submitted,



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